

# THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

WHOLE NUMBER, 14,249.

RICHMOND, VA., FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 1897.

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## HEAR THE CORONER.

HE TELLS RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE WHAT HE HAS TO DO.

## SECOND ASSISTANT AT ALMHOUSE.

Superintendent Davis Does Not See How This Office Can Be Abolished—Cemetery-Keepers Make Statements.

The Committee on Retrenchment and Reform held a session last night and heard from several city officials as to their duties, and the compensation they received from the city. No action was taken in any of the cases under consideration, but the meeting was enlivened by several bits of humor. There were present Chairman Allen, and Messrs. Ebel, Harrelson, King, Mountree, Noble, Jones, and Zimmerman, of the committee, and a number of persons more or less interested in the proceedings. Among the latter class were Police-Judge John J. Crutchfield, Special-Accountant Carlton McCarthy, City-Attorney C. V. Meredith, Superintendent - of - the - City - Almhouse George B. Davis, and last, but not least, although he came in late, City-Coroner William H. Taylor.

Under a suspension of the rules, the body heard Mr. Marx Gunst, chairman of the Committee on Grounds and Buildings, as to the operations of that department; what was being done in the line of retrenchment, etc. Mr. Gunst stated that his committee was looking into the matter of economy in every line of work, was considering the proposition to place all the parks of the city under one park superintendent, etc., but that it had not gone far enough with these matters to submit its report as yet. He hoped to be able to do this very soon.

**BURYING-GROUND KEEPER.**

Mr. A. Graffigna, the Superintendent of St. John's Burying-Ground, was heard by the committee. He said that he had much work to do at this cemetery, keeping the grounds in order, looking after the flowers, plants, and attending to visitors, etc. He said it was worth \$250 a year by the city and \$25 from the church out of which he had to pay a man to take care of the church.

Mr. Graffigna added that he had in the ho-ho-house about \$250 worth of plants. There had been no interments in the burial-ground since 1884. Being questioned by Mr. Rountree, the witness said that he occasionally was allowed a man for the purpose of assisting him in cutting the grass.

"There have been many visitors to St. John's," continued Mr. Graffigna, "and I have to explain all the points of interest about the grounds and church. There have been as many as 20 visitors a day to those grounds. I often have to show these strangers where Patrick Henry made his great speech, and at times am called upon to repeat a part of his speech; show them the baptismal font, decipher the lettering on the tombstones, etc. He never sold any of the flowers, but kept them all for the beautification of the premises. In concluding his explanation of his duties, Mr. Graffigna said that the committee would like to do so, he would repeat that long inscription over the door of the church, which he was often called upon to repeat to strangers. Chairman Allen told the witness that he need not do this, and there was a ripple of laughter throughout the committee room.

## THE DUTIES AT OAKWOOD.

Captain William A. Dickerson, Superintendent of Oakwood Cemetery, being present, was on motion of Mr. Zimmerman, moved to adjourn the committee regarding his duties. At the session of the committee held on Tuesday evening, the body recommended a reduction in Captain Dickerson's salary from \$750 to \$600 per annum in addition to his residence. The Superintendent said he had entire charge of the cemetery, but to keep two sets of books, look after the work of cleaning the grounds and keeping them in good condition, preserving order, etc. He added that he had the care of the graves of 36,000 Confederate soldiers, along with the preservation of the records of these graves, which are very valuable and important. He opened an average 60 new graves a year at Oakwood.

When Captain Dickerson concluded his statement, Mr. Zimmerman moved to adjourn, and Mr. Jones said he would, at the next session of the committee, offer a motion recommending the placing of the engaging of all employees of departments and the wages paid them under the heads of the respective departments, to the approval of the committee government. The same, Mr. Jones threw out this idea because he wanted the members to think over it until the next meeting. This system would place all the departments upon the same footing with the Gas Department.

The committee adjourned just before 11 o'clock, without having taken action upon any of the cases before it.

Light Committee in Session.

A regular session of the Light Committee was held last night. Present were Messrs. Starke (chairman), Hardwicke, Wallerstein, Tanner, Stokes, and Witte.

Messrs. H. W. Flournoy and R. C. Marshall, representing a syndicate who wish to buy or lease the City Gas-Works, appeared before the committee and asked for a joint meeting of the Finance Committee and Light Committee, when their proposition would be made to the joint committee.

The committee decided to have a joint meeting if agreeable to the Finance Committee, on Thursday evening next.

Colonel John S. Harwood, of Harwood Brothers, who have the contract for furnishing oil to the gas-works, appeared before the committee and submitted a written agreement in accordance with the directions of the committee at its previous meeting, stating he will erect the tank for storing oil near the gas-works and give the city the benefit of a reduction in the price of oil for a term of three years.

Mr. Tanner moved that the contract be recommended to the Council for approval.

Mr. Wallerstein opposed the proposition, and demanded a recorded vote on the proposition. This was agreed to, and by the vote of 6 to 5.

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Mr. Wallerstein stated that he reserved the right to present a minority report, and to vote against the proposition when presented in the Council.

A request was read from the ladies who had charge of the bazaar recently held for the benefit of the Associated Charities, asking for the refund of the amount of \$2, the charge for gas consumed during the bazaar. The request was laid on the joint committee.

"How are you paid, Dr. Taylor?" inquired the Chair.

"I am paid under an agreement between the city and myself the sum of \$250 per annum."

Mr. Zimmerman asked about how many cases the Coroner had a year. Dr. Taylor replied that some years the number had run up as high as 280, but that last year the number was not so great, hardly more than 190. The Coroner went on to state that he had entire discretion as to whether or not an inquest should or should not be held over a body, and that when one was held under the fee system the city had to pay him \$10 for standing by and watching the other fellows, who were also paid by the city, do the work. He added further, that under the fee system all he had to do in the matter of a post-mortem was to hire a doctor at the city's expense to do the disagreeable part of the job.

AS STATE CHEMIST.

"Dr. Taylor," said Mr. Noble, "you are also State Chemist, I believe?"

"Yes, sir," was the laconic reply of the Coroner.

"Will you tell us, if you please, what your duties are as State Chemist?" interrogated Mr. Noble, further.

"They are, to conduct experiments for the public health and the safety of the community and to collect the money for it. (Laughter.) As to one feature of these duties I have been very fortunate, but not as to the other."

Dr. Taylor went on to say that there were no State emoluments to this office, and that he often spent \$100 going off to conduct an analysis or test which only yielded him \$2 under the law, and sometimes he did not get as much as \$1.

Going back to his duties as Coroner, Dr. Taylor said that he felt that his labors were such as to warrant him in getting as much salary as the city paid him. He did not know how the committee could shift the work upon another officer, and trusted that the body would fit not to bother with his place. He remarked that he had given much thought to the question under consideration by the

committee, and he had not been able to see any arrangement by which the consolidation could be made—with satisfaction to him. (Laughter.)

## CONTROL OF THE ALMHOUSE.

Coroner Taylor was then questioned and Mr. George B. Davis, Superintendent of the City Almhouse, was called to the stand and questioned as to the duties of the Second Assistant Superintendent of that institution, which the committee appeared to have been under the impression could be abolished. Mr. Davis stated that the Second Assistant had charge of the colored almhouse, and was on duty day and night, never being absent from there more than a few hours at a time. He regarded it as very necessary to have some power over the inmates of the house, which was some distance from the white almhouse at all times, and the present Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Herman Paul, had made a very efficient and capable man for the place. He had been there for four years, and managed the colored men and women admirably. The compensation attached to the office was \$900 a year with residence, gas, and fuel.

Mr. Jones asked Mr. Davis if the Superintendent and the First Assistant could not conduct the colored almhouse to which Mr. Davis replied that the duties of the First Assistant was to keep the books of the institution, and to have control of the white almhouse in the absence of the Superintendent.

Mr. Davis said that between the hours of 9 A. M. and 2 P. M. he was engaged in the public charities office in the City Hall building, and he did not see how it was possible for the almhouses to be well conducted without a second assistant.

Delinquent-Tax-Collector Walford requested the committee to place another cabinet in his office, and the matter was referred to the Board of Education.

A bill was received from the City School Board through Clerk Rader asking for an additional room adjoining the quarters of the School Department in the City Hall. This was also referred to the Engineer for a report as to cost.

Bids for the refreshment privileges were received, but the opening of them was deferred until the committee should have passed upon the Traction Company's petition.

## GAS USED IN ARMORIES.

Bills for gas were received as follows:

For the Richmond Art-Infantry Blues, \$229; Richmond Howitzers, \$120; Stuart Horse Guard, \$170; First Virginia Cavalry, \$622; and City Jail, \$29.80. Total, \$600.

These bills came to this committee because of the recent action of the Council requiring each of the city departments to pay for the gas consumed. All were referred to the City Attorney for his opinion as to how these bills should be paid, save the bill of the Richmond Blues. After the season of 1885 in which he distinguished himself here, he was signed by the New York National League Club, and played with them during their practice games. He had a row with President Freedman, and was put on the bench without pay. Subsequently he was exchanged to Washington, and by some arrangement with Manager Wells, which is not made public, he was released by "Senator" Wagner to Richmond.

Toronto made a strong play to secure him from Washington, and tried hard to head Richmond off. Wells, however, pushed his negotiations, and the result is that he has finally landed his man, and he belongs outright to Richmond.

## THE SPIDERS WON AGAIN.

They Dragged the Roanoke Yellow-Jackets Into Their Web.

Victory still smiles on the Richmond College Spiders. They won another game yesterday, but they didn't have a walk-over. They met for the first time the Yellow-Jackets from Roanoke College, and it was nip and tuck from start to finish. The Yellow-Jackets played well and battled hard, and made every possible effort to achieve a victory. The Spiders, however, worked equally as hard, and spun their web around the Roanokers, and finally succeeded in hemming them in.

## FIRST MARKET.

There was a meeting of the Committee on First Market at 10 o'clock yesterday morning. The Clerk reported that \$9,950 had been collected on the 10 per cent. taxes during the month. The amount, amounting to \$912, was deemed to be paid. Clerk of Committee McDowell stated that he had examined the ordinances upon the question and found that no one could be held responsible for the damage to the property of the city, except in June, July, and August. A fine of from \$2 to \$5 is the penalty.

The police were instructed to look out for people who sold contrary to the structure would be.

After much discussion the committee adjourned until this evening, without having taken action upon this matter.

## AN INTERESTING CONTEST.

The game was decided the most interesting that has been played here this year, and abounded with brilliant plays on both sides. Weddington, a long, lank twirler of great ability and abundant speed, fingered the sphere for the Yellow-Jackets, and DeCamps, the bushy-haired youngster who has done such clever work in the past week, manipulated the hide for the Spiders. Weddington appeared to have the better of the contest, but neither pitcher was hit hard.

In the third inning the Roanoke lads accumulated four runs, and kept the lead for several innings thereafter. Matters looked apoplectic for the Spiders, and defeat seemed to stare them in the face.

## WORKED ALL THE HARDER.

The little insects despaired not, though, to work all the harder. In the fifth inning, Mr. Jones Jr., "the son of his father," lined out a three-base hit, which yielded two runs. In the seventh he rapped out a double, which yielded two more runs and tied the score. Then things became lively. The Yellow-Jackets added a couple of runs to their score, but the Spiders offset this with three runs, and thus the game was won.

The score here appended will tell the whole story:

## RICHMOND COLLEGE.

A. B. R. H. O. A. E. Leonard, ss.....3 0 1 1 1 0 McNeill, 2b.....4 0 1 1 6 1 Wills, 3b.....2 1 0 2 2 1 Bagby, c. f. ....2 0 0 1 0 0 Bea, Ib.....2 0 0 1 0 0 Ewing, Ib. & c. f. ....3 1 0 0 0 0 Hirsch, L. F. ....1 1 0 0 0 0 Fleming, L. F. ....1 1 0 0 0 0 Kaufman, L. F. ....3 0 0 1 0 0 Robinson, L. F. ....0 0 0 0 0 0 Cunningham, r. f. ....4 2 2 0 9 0 DeCamps, p. ....3 1 2 2 9 1 Totals .....31 7 27 29 5 ROANOKE COLLEGE.

A. B. R. H. O. A. E. Reoffer, 2b.....5 1 2 3 0 1 Boyer, Sb. ....5 1 0 2 0 2 Meade, c. ....4 1 1 8 3 0 Gale, L. F. ....3 1 1 0 2 1 Fox, ss.....4 0 0 9 1 0 Rhiney, c. f. ....0 0 0 0 0 0 Penick, Ib. ....4 0 1 5 0 2 Lloyd, r. f. ....4 1 2 0 2 0 Weddington, p. ....3 1 0 2 11 0 Totals .....35 6 7 24 16 6 SCORE BY INNINGS.

Richmond College .....0 0 0 0 2 0 3 0 7 Roanoke College .....0 0 4 0 0 0 2 2 6 Summary: Earned runs-Richmond College, 2; Roanoke College, 1. Three-base hit-Cunningham. Two-base hits-Cunningham, Hirsch. First base on errors-Richmond College, 2; Roanoke College, 2; bases on balls-Off DeCamps, 1; off Weddington, 3. Left on bases-Richmond College, 4; Roanoke College, 3. Bases from being hit-by DeCamps, 1; Weddington, 2; McNeil, W. (2); Elliston, DeCamps, Boyer, Meade (2); Gale, Fox, Penick. Wild pitch-Weddington. Error-Two of game-2 hours. Umpire-Mr. Phillips.

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## THE FIRST GAME TO-MORROW.

This afternoon the Richmond College lads will cross bats with the Maryland University team, and a good game will no doubt be played.

To-morrow afternoon the Bluebirds will make their initial appearance on the Broad-Street Park diamond, and will fight their first battle of this year. They will have as their opponents the Spiders, and they will probably chew the inners up, but the game will be interesting and attractive to the cranks, as it will give them their first opportunity of seeing the reorganized Bluebirds actively at work.

## THE GAME PAR-EXCELLENCE.

On Monday the game par excellence will be played. Then the Bluebirds will cross bats with the Pittsburg National League Club. Dick Fadden, the ex-Roxie, will cover second bag for the Pittsburgers, and Jim Tammill, "Our Jessie," will pitch for them. The programme, as far as arrangements go, is for Flynn to do the twirling for Richmond, and in event that this is carried out, the two comrades of 1885 will for the first time oppose each other.

Work on the new park has progressed very rapidly in the past few days. The carpentering work—a big job in itself—has been completed, and reflects great credit on the contractor. The ground is being gotten in good shape now. The entire field has been sodded and set out with grass. To-day it will be planted and rolled. It is expected that the grass will come up in the next day or so, and then the field will be perfect. The diamond will not be "skinned," as at West-End Park, but has been sown with grass, and it will present a much smoother surface.

## COPPER LEFT OUT.

WASHINGTON, April 1.—By an oversight, there is no mention of it in Tariff Bill.

WASHINGTON, April 1.—By an oversight, there is no provision for copper in the tariff metal schedule, and failing special mention, that metal will come under the general provision of the bill laying a duty of 25 per cent. on metals not otherwise provided for. It was

Mr. Joseph M. Shelton, the Gas Inspector, advised course he should pursue in the matter of delinquent gas bills at the First Regiment Armory. The Inspector was instructed not to turn off the gas to the officers for payment. The bill was referred to the Superintendents to ascertain who ordered the gas turned on.

Mr. Irving L. Bevieridge, druggist, made application for the privilege of placing a mortor on the gas-lamp in front of his store. By a tie vote the request was lost.

A bill for \$1.00 for gas consumed in lighting the clock in the tower of Park-Place church was presented to the committee for payment. The bill was referred to the Superint